



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/510,167	02/22/2000	R. Keith Hilpl	04529.79731	1554
7590 01/11/2005 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRA, VA 22320			EXAMINER PHAM, THIERRY L	
			ART UNIT 2624	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/510,167	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HILPL ET AL	
	<b>Examiner</b> Thierry L Pham	<b>Art Unit</b> 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE filed on 11/15/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an RCE filed on 11/15/04.
- Claims 1-51 are pending in application;
- Amendment After Final filed on 10/7/04 was not entered;

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-13, 18-19, 22-23, 27, 29-30, 35-36, 39-40, 44, 46-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hower et al (U.S. 5467434), and in view Barrett et al (U.S. 5260805).

Regarding claim 18, Hower discloses a method for programming print attributes/settings conflicts, comprising:

- a module to initiate (initiate by using a keyboard, col. 1, line 24 to program a print job, col. 4, lines 4-5) a save conflict mode (finishing option conflict rules, Fig. 13, col. 7, lines 55-67); and
- one of a module to store (col. 9, line 46) user specified print job attribute (quantity, finishing, col. 4, lines 4-8) in a conflict list (col. 6, lines 65-67 and col. 7, lines 1-3) while in the save conflict mode and storing user specified conflict attributes based on the print job attributes while in the save conflict mode, the conflict attributes including at least one of a policy, a capability and a constraint (finishing capability, col. 7, lines 55-67);
- wherein the user specified print job attributes and the user specified conflict attributes specify a conflict condition that is not available as a priori information (adding new conflict rules to the printer profile that are not available as a priori information based upon the new features added to the printing system, col. 8, lines 5-25).

Art Unit: 2624

However, Hower teaches a method for programming a conflict at the client's computer rather than printer console/unit.

Barrett, in the same field of endeavor for programming a conflict, teaches a method for programming a conflict at the printer's console/unit (fig. 2, col. 2, lines 1-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Hower as per teachings of Barrett because of a following reason: (●) to allow users/operators to program conflicts both at the client's computer or at the printer itself; by doing so, it increases the operating efficiency.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Hower with Barrett to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 19, Hower further discloses a printer, wherein the module to store print job attributes includes logic at least one of an enlargement/reduction (col.4, lines 5-8) parameter, an orientation, a simplex/duplex parameter, a sort parameter, a binding parameter, and a fed medium select parameter.

Regarding claim 22, Hower further discloses a printer, further comprising:

- (1) a module to receive from a user at least one job attribute (finishing options, col. 7, lines 55-67) that causes a conflict; and
- (2) a module to check the at least one received job attribute against the stored print job attributes (Fig. 8, col. 4, lines 52-55).

Regarding claim 23, Hower further discloses a printer, further comprising:

- (1) a module to determine (determine if the media type selected by the user is in the first printer profile combinations, col. 6, lines 20-47) whether a conflict condition exists (set of rules which describe the finishing, formatting, and output capabilities of the associated printer, col. 5, lines 13-20); and

Art Unit: 2624

(2) a module to display (displaying via an User Interface and monitor, Fig. 1, Abstract and col. 1, line 23) a conflict message (fault message, col. 9, line 64) when the conflict condition is determined to exist.

Regarding claim 27, Hower further discloses a printer, wherein the module to store conflict attributes includes logic to formulate (Fig. 9, col. 3, lines 8-9) the conflict attributes based on at least one of an enlargement/reduction parameter, an orientation, a simplex/duplex parameter, a sort parameter, a binding parameter, and a fed medium select parameter (Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 29, Hower further discloses a method to program a printer further comprising steps of:

- receiving from a user at least one job attribute that causes a conflict (finishing options, col. 7, lines 55-67); and
- checking for an itinerary (media property, finishing option, col. 10, lines 7-11) to process a sheet according to the at least one received job attribute (media type, col. 10, lines 7-11).

Regarding claim 30, Hower further discloses a printer further comprising:

- a module to determine whether an itinerary is unavailable due to a conflict condition (the present invention relates generally to printing systems, and more particularly to a technique for determining whether a combination of print job selections is available at a given printer having a predetermined set of printer properties, col. 1, lines 7-10); and
- a module to display a conflict message (a fault message is displayed at said programming means when the combination of print job selections does not correspond with the subset of the set of the printer properties available at the one of the plurality of printers associated with the selected one of the printer profiles, col. 9, lines 64-67 and col. 10, lines 1-3) when the itinerary is unavailable due to a conflict condition.

Art Unit: 2624

Regarding claims 1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-13: Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-13 are the method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 18-19, 22-23, 27, 29-30 (respectively). The method claims are inherent and included by the operation of the apparatus claims. Please see claims rejection basis/rationale as described in claims 18-19, 22-23, 27, 29-30 above.

2. Claims 35-36, 39-40, 44, 46-47 correspond to claim 18-19, 22-23, 27, 29-30 (respectively) except computer readable memory medium for storing program is claimed rather than printing system or data output apparatus. All computers have some type of computer readable memory medium for storing computer programs, hence claims 35-36, 39-40, 44, 46-47 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claims 18-19, 22-23, 27, 29-30 (respectively).

3. Claims 3-4, 20-21, 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hower and Barrett as described in claims 1, 18, and/or 35 above, and further in view of Yokoyama (U.S. Pat. 6166826).

Regarding claim 20, the combinations disclose a printer comprising a processor and a plurality of modules to control the processor, wherein the module to initiate a save conflict mode includes: (1) logic to receive from a user at least one print job attribute (finishing options, col. 7, lines 55-67, Hower) that causes a conflict.

However, the combinations fail to teach a printer includes a module to recognize a user initiated save conflict mode command.

Yokoyama, in the same field of endeavor for setting printer's attribute (Fig. 3, col. 9, lines 7-15), teaches a module to recognize a user initiated save (user wants to store print data, col. 9, lines 64-67 and col. 10, lines 1-5) conflict mode. Since Yokoyama's invention teaches a step of storing print data along with a password to prevent unauthorized access to confidential materials; therefore, his invention also capable of verifying a user who wants to edit and save the printing settings (col. 12, lines 22-50).

Art Unit: 2624

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Hower and Barrett method of programming a printer by the teachings of Yokoyama because of the following reasons: (1) erroneous printing can be prevented for improving the printing efficiency (Yokoyama, col. 12, lines 59-62); (2) response time of the printer can be shortened and communication path traffic can be decreased (Yokoyama, col. 12, lines 65-67); (3) confidential materials can be protected against unauthorized users (Yokoyama, col. 14, lines 21-29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yokoyama with Hower and Barrett to obtain the invention as specified in claim 20.

Regarding claim 21, Yokoyama further discloses a module to program a printer, wherein the module of initiating a save conflict mode further includes verifying that the user is an authorized user (password, col. 12, lines 27-32).

Regarding claims 3-4: Claims 3-4 are the method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 20-21 (respectively). The method claims are inherent and included by the operation of the apparatus claims. Please see claims rejection basis/rationale as described in claims 20-21 above.

Claims 37-38 correspond to claim 20-21 (respectively) except computer readable memory medium for storing program is claimed rather than printing system or data output apparatus. All computers have some type of computer readable memory medium for storing computer programs, hence claims 37-38 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claims 20-21 (respectively).

Art Unit: 2624

4. Claims 7, 11, 14, 17, 24, 28, 31, 34, 41, 45, 48, 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hower and Barrett , and further in view of Neuhard et al (U.S. Pat. 6335795).

Regarding claims 24 & 31, the combinations of Barrett and Hower disclose a printer, include the module comprising of (1) a module to initiate a delete conflict mode (a conflict is identified by means of message displayed on touch-screen informing the operator that a conflict exists together with a suggested procedure for removing the conflict, col. 7, lines 34-47, Barrett).

The combinations of Hower and Barrett do not teach a printer include a module for deleting the stored print job attributes from the conflict list.

Neuhard, in the same field of endeavor for resolving print attributes conflict, teaches a module to delete the stored print job attributes (col.9, lines 60-65) from the conflict list.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Hower's method for programming the printer by the teachings of Neuhard and Barrett because of a following reason: (1) to minimize time spent query for print options available in the network printing system, Neuhard, col. 3, lines 6-8; thereby, reduce operating costs. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Neuhard and Barrett with Hower to obtain the invention as specified in claims 24 and 31.

Regarding claims 28 & 34, Neuhard further discloses a module to program a printer, wherein the module include reinitializing scheduler (the spooler/scheduler 20 of Fig. 1 receives the print jobs from the client computers and generates printer files that are transmitted to the printer, col. 4, lines 29-37) after storing/deleting the conflict attributes.

Regarding claims 7, 11, 14, 17: Claims 7, 11, 14, 17 are the method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 24, 28, 31, 34 (respectively). The method claims are inherent and included by the operation of the apparatus claims. Please see claims rejection basis/rationale as described in claims 24, 28, 31, 34 above.



Claims 41, 45, 48, 51 correspond to claim 24, 28, 31, 34 (respectively) except computer readable memory medium for storing program is claimed rather than printing system or data output apparatus. All computers have some type of computer readable memory medium for storing computer programs, hence claims 41, 45, 48, 51 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claims 24, 28, 31, 34 (respectively).

5. Claims 8-9, 15-16, 25-26, 32-33, 42-43 and 49-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hower, Barret, Neuhard as applied to claims 7, 14, 24, 31, 41, and/or 48 above, and further in view of Yokoyama (U.S. Pat. 6166826).

Regarding claims 25 & 32, the combinations of Hower, Barret and Neuhard disclose a printer comprising a processor and a plurality of modules to control the processor, wherein the module to initiate a save conflict mode includes:

(1) logic to receive from a user at least one print job attribute (Hower, finishing options, col. 7, lines 55-67) that causes a conflict; and

However, the combinations of Hower, Barret, and Neuhard do not teach a printer includes a module to recognize a user initiated save conflict mode command.

Yokoyama, in the same field of endeavor for setting printer's attribute (Fig. 3, col. 9, lines 7-15), teaches a module to recognize a user initiated save (user wants to store print data, col. 9, lines 64-67 and col. 10, lines 1-5) conflict mode. Since Yokoyama's invention teaches a step of storing print data along with a password to prevent unauthorized access to confidential materials; therefore, his invention also capable of verifying a user who wants to edit and save the printing settings (col. 12, lines 22-50).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the combinations of Hower, Barret, and Neuhard method of programming a printer by the teachings of Yokoyama because of the following reasons: (1) erroneous printing can be prevented for improving the printing efficiency (Yokoyama, col. 12, lines 59-62); (2) response time of the printer can be shortened and communication path traffic can be decreased (Yokoyama, col. 12, lines 65-67); (3) confidential materials can be protected against

Art Unit: 2624

unauthorized users (Yokoyama, col. 14, lines 21-29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Yokoyama with Hower, Barret, Neuha to obtain the invention as specified in claims 25 & 32.

Regarding claims 26 & 33, Yokoyama further discloses a module to program a printer, wherein the module of initiating a save conflict mode further includes verifying that the user is an authorized user (password, col. 12, lines 27-32).

Regarding claims 8-9, 15-16: Claims 8-9, 15-16 are the method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 25-26, 32-33 (respectively). The method claims are inherent and included by the operation of the apparatus claims. Please see claims rejection basis/rationale as described in claims 25-26, 32-33 above.

Claims 42-43, 49-50 correspond to claim 25-26, 32-33 (respectively) except computer readable memory medium for storing program is claimed rather than printing system or data output apparatus. All computers have some type of computer readable memory medium for storing computer programs, hence claims 42-43, 49-50 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claims 25-26, 32-33 (respectively).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 7/15/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- Regarding claims 1, 18, 35, the applicants argued the cited prior arts of record fail to teach "initiating a save conflict mode from the printer when a user observes an undesirable result from the printer in response to user specified print job attributes".

In response, nowhere in currently amended claims 1, 18, and 35, recite the limitations including "initiating a save conflict mode from the printer when a user observes an undesirable result from the printer in response to user specified print job attributes". However, currently amended claims 1, 18, and 35 include "wherein the user specified print job attributes and the user specified

Art Unit: 2624

conflict attributes specify a conflict condition that is not available as a priori information", which explicitly taught by Hower (col. 8, lines 5-25). Please see claim 1 above for more details.


### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (703) 305-1897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (703)308-7452. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham

  
GABRIEL GARCIA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER